

The York County Ag Preservation Program

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York PA 17402

717-840-7400 / Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is pleased to announce that from 1990 through January 1, 2015, two-hundred and sixty-five farms covering 40,094 acres have been preserved!!! This includes farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation. These farms represent working lands across the county which produce field crops, milk, fruits, berries, vegetables, Christmas trees, nursery stock, timber, and a variety of livestock. On behalf of the County of York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we thank the farm families who have made this forever commitment.

On November 19th, 2014, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (YCALPB) hosted a public meeting for landowners thinking of preserving their farm. The meeting, attended by about 40 landowners, focused on the County's easement purchase program, application requirements, farmland ranking process and deed restrictions, which landowner's must consider before preserving their farms.

The evening's speakers were: Matt Kern, Service Forester, Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) "Managing your woodlot"; Eric Samus, Supervisory District Conservationist (USDA & NRCS) - "The importance of conservation planning on your farm."; Mark Flaharty, Ag Resource Conservationist, York County Conservation District (YCCD) - "Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and the requirements for farm operations today."; Sean Kenny, Director, Farm & Natural Lands Trust (FNLT), a private non-profit conservation organization - "Preserving farms and natural lands through a donated or bargain sales conservation easement."

Last year we received 59 applications totaling 5,042 acres. With continuous application sign-up today, landowners need not worry about application deadlines. Complete applications are considered on a year round basis. The YCALPB selected 12 farms for preservation through easement purchase in 2014.

The County of York, acting through the YCALPB, also received two conservation easement donations in December of 2014. Glenn and Donna Reed and Donald Snelbaker, donated their conservation easements to the citizens of County of York. Their farms are located in Warrington Township within close proximity to the Gifford Pinchot Park. We thank these two generous families for their kind gifts to the taxpayers of our County.

Funding for land preservation efforts comes from sources such as: Clean & Green penalties, York General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, Growing Greener funds and state & federal sources. Preservation, through easement purchase, may only occur when easement funds have been allocated and certified by a County to the State. In December 2104, York County Commissioner's approved \$ 164,875 for the YCALPB preservation use. County officials anticipate an 8 to 1 match from the State. Matches will be announced in February 2015.

The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board extends our deepest appreciation and thank you to Board Members Nelson Roth of York and Dennis Martin of Seven Valleys for their many years of volunteer service to the County of York serving on the Ag Land Preservation Board. The YCALPB welcomes Alan Taylor of Lower Chanceford Township for his agreement to serve on our board. Alan farms with his family and is a lifelong dairyman. Alan also serves Lower Chanceford as the Vice-Chairman of Township Supervisors.

Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or find our information at www.YorkCountyPA.gov . Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. See if any preserved farms are near you. The York County Ag Land Preservation Program continues to rank third in the state and ninth in the Nation for acres of farmland preserved. YCALPB Office Hours are 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. We are located in the County Annex Building at 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402.